

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 4 and 14 have been amended to be consistent with the specification as indicated in the attached marked-up drawings.

Fig. 7 “ORDERS INPUT” has been amended to read “ORDERS LIST” to be consistent with the specification.

Figs. 9 and 12 has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Attachment: Five (5) Annotated Sheets of Figs. 4, 7, 9, 12 and 14
Five (5) Replacement Sheets of Figs. 4, 7, 9, 12 and 14

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 22, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are now all of the claims pending in the present application.

I. Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to Fig. 4 as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) and Figs. 4 and 14 as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4). Figs. 4 and 14 have been, amended as indicated above, to be consistent with the specification. Figs. 9 and 12 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Fig. 7 “ORDERS INPUT” has been amended to read “ORDERS LIST” to be consistent with the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4); therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner approve the drawings.

II. Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure stating that page 17, line 3, reciting “S03” should recite “S02”. Page 17, line 3 appropriately recites “S03.” However, Applicant has amended the first paragraph on page 17 to recite “step S02,” as indicated above.

Further, Applicant has amended the first full paragraph of page 24 and the first paragraph of page 21 “used resources 45c_2” to read “user resources 45c_2” to be consistent with Fig. 14.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fox (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,134).

The Examiner asserts that Fox discloses the elements of claims 1-5.

Fox is directed to a scheduling optimizer for scheduling operations and tasks necessary for constructing buildings, machine or equipment. See col. 1, lines 13-16. A scheduling program creates a tentative schedule of the tasks S1. See col. 6, lines 9-11. The tasks are then sorted in chronological order by completion time to produce a chronological listing by completion time S2. See col. 7, lines 65-67. Working in reverse chronological order in the chronological listing, starting with the last task in the list, from the task with the latest completion time, each task is “right shifted” as much as permissible to the right completion time boundary to create a listing S3. Therefore, each task is unscheduled and rescheduled to start and finish as late as possible prior to or at the right time boundary. See col. 8, lines 20-27. Consequently, each task is assigned a new completion time. See col. 8, lines 42-43.

The tasks listed in the “right shifted” task listing are again sorted, but in chronological order by the respective start times to obtain another chronological listing S4. The first task in the listing S4 contains the earliest start time S. See col. 10, lines 1-8. Working in order in the list starting with the first task in the list which has the earliest start time, each task is “left shifted” toward the start time boundary. Therefore, each task is unscheduled and rescheduled to occur at or as early as possible without violating restraints or requirements. Each task is given a new start

time and based on the data respecting the duration required for the particular task, the task is assigned a new completion time. This creates a new listing, the “left shifted” task list S5. See col. 10, lines 8-31. The schedule S5 is the final step in the schedule optimization routine. The main schedule program stores the schedule S5 in memory and overwrites or erases the original schedule and any intervening schedules. See col. 11, lines 30-35.

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed to a method for planning a schedule for printing processes consisting of a series of processes including a machine plate making process for making a machine plate of a printing machine. In order to establish anticipation, the Examiner must show that each and every element of the claim is taught in the cited art. The Examiner’s assertion that the claimed printing process and machine plate making process of the claim fall within the category of performing an operation for a required purpose and are therefore anticipated, is improper. Contrary to the Examiner’s assertions, there is no indication of a machine plate of a printing machine in Fox. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion of a printing process or a machine plate making process in Fox

Claim 1 of the present invention recites “creating a schedule plan for *first half processes* in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a *fastest-schedule scheme* for *first half processes terminating up to the machine plate making process* of the series of processes obtained in the obtaining step, and creating a schedule plan for *latter half processes* in such a manner that a scheduling is performed in accordance with a *latest-schedule scheme* for *latter half processes starting after a starting point of the machine plate making process* of the series of processes obtained in the obtaining step.”

The Examiner asserts that the “right shift” schedule scheme and the “left shift” schedule scheme corresponds with the fastest-schedule scheme and latest-schedule scheme, respectively. However, based on the above-mentioned description of Fox, it is apparent that all tasks to be scheduled, remain with each schedule (i.e. right shift schedule S3, left shift schedule S5). This is affirmed in Fox col. 8, lines 1-5 which recites that the tasks in the second list are the same in number, *n*, as in the first, but that the particular tasks are not likely to be listed in the same order. Further, the “right shift” and the “left shift” schedule are obtained in order to arrive at a final schedule S5 which is the schedule optimization routine. Therefore, the right shift schedule is not a schedule for a first half of processes and the left shift schedule is not a schedule for latter half processes, and vice versa. The right shift schedule and the left shift schedule are schedules for performing *all* of the required tasks.

Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that the claimed printing process and machine plate making process is disclosed, there is no indication that the tasks are distinguished according to those terminating up to “an operation for a required purpose” (the machine plate making process as cited by the Examiner) and those starting after a point of “an operation for a required purpose.”

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable. Since claims 3 and 5 recite similar elements, claims 3 and 5 and their dependent claims should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons.

IV. New Claims

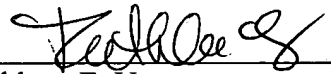
Applicant has added claims 6 and 7 to provide a more varied scope of protection. Claims 6 and 7 should be deemed allowable by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 21, 2005

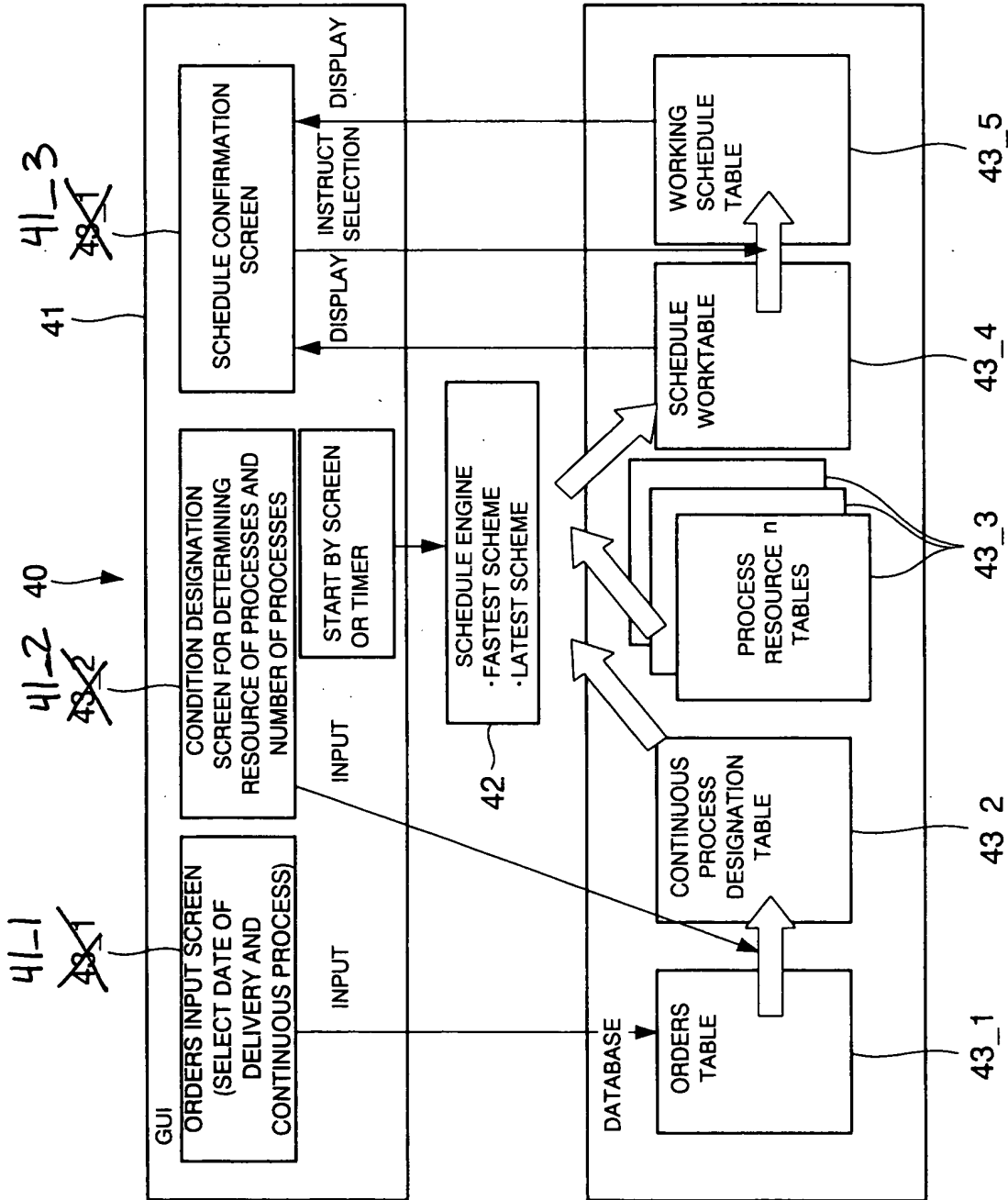


Fig. 4

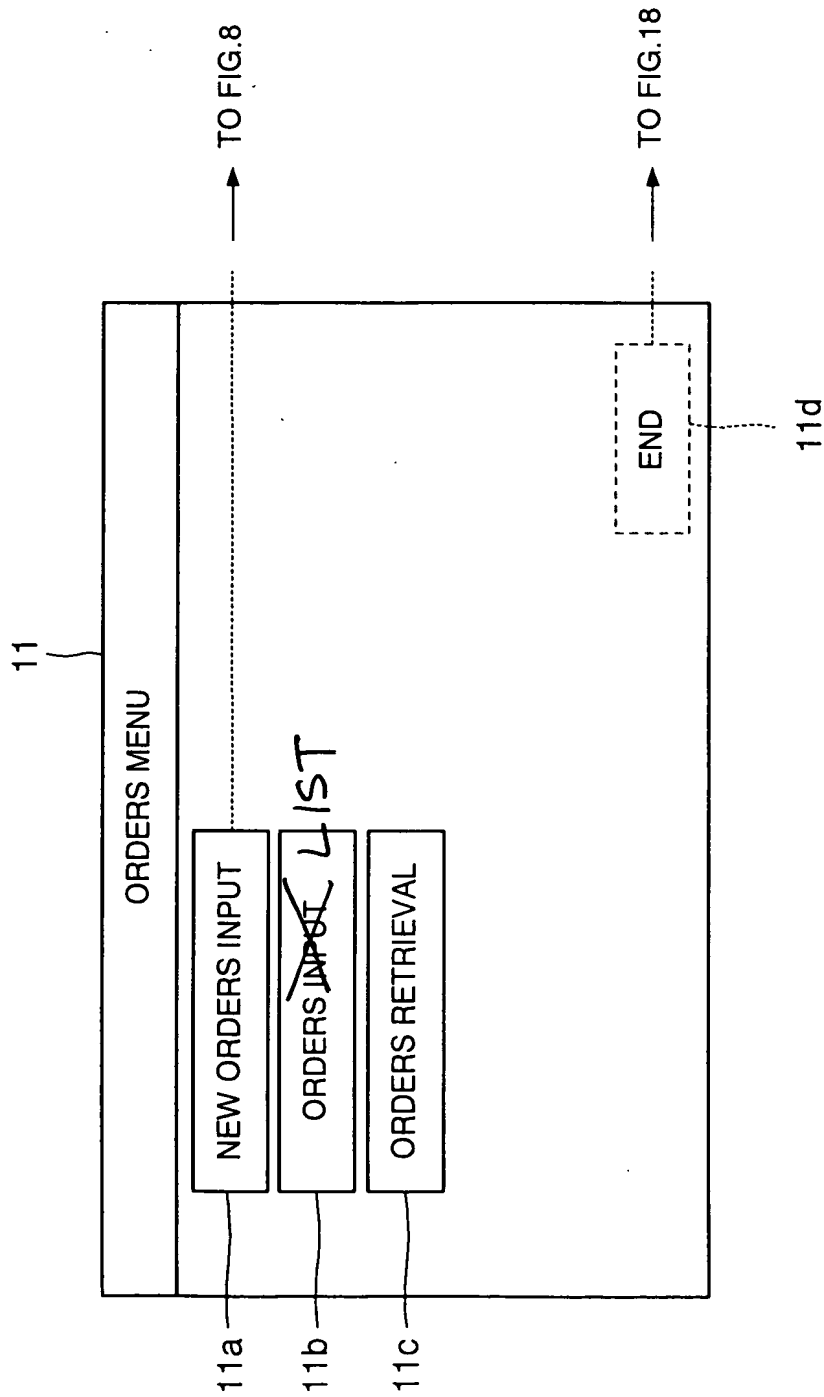


Fig. 7

43_1a	43_1b	43_1c	43_1d	43_1e	43_1f	43_1g	43_1h	43_1i	43_1j	43_1k
ORDER NOS.	STATUSES	ARTICLE NAMES	KINDS	ITEMS	NAMES OF CUSTOMER	TIME OF DELIVERY	QUANTITIES	UNITS	SALES STAFFS	SALES MEMOS
080-10156	NOT YET PROCESSED	MINIKOMIOO TOWN NO.	NONREGULAR MAGAZINE	PAMPHLET	△△△△ PLANNING (CO.LTD.)	2000/4/18 15:00	5000	COPY	TARO TANAKA	
070-10080	ALREADY PLANNED	SPRING BARGAIN	COMMERCIAL PRINT	LEAFLET	□□□ ADVERTISEMENT AGENCY	2000/4/18 17:00	20000	SHEET	ICHIRO YAMADA	
081-10144	ALREADY PLANNED	CAR STANDARD PRICE	COMMERCIAL PRINT	LEAFLET	☆☆☆ ADVERTISEMENT (LTD.)	2000/4/17 10:00	3000	SHEET	HANAKO SUZUKI	
.
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Fig. 9

45a

45a_1

CONTINUOUS

SELECTION OF ~~CONTINUOUS~~ PROCESSES

CONTINUOUS PROCESS NAMES	EXPLANATION
MINIKOMI 16P4C	16 PAGES 4-COLOR MACHINE
MINIKOMI 16P2C	16 PAGES 2-COLOR MACHINE
MINIKOMI 16P1+4C	16 PAGES 1+4-COLOR MACHINE
MINIKOMI 16P1C	16 PAGES 1-COLOR MACHINE
MINIKOMI 32P4C	16 PAGES 4-COLOR MACHINE

RETRIEVAL CONDITIONS

ITEM 45a_2

CUSTOMER'S NAME 45a_3

45a_4 RETRIEVAL

45a_5 OK

45a_6 CANCEL

Fig. 12

45c

45c_2

45c_1

SET UP OF WORKING HOURS FOR PROCESSES

PROCESS ATTRIBUTES	USER RESOURCES	CTP NO.1 MACHINE
<input type="radio"/> PAGE MAKE-UP <input type="radio"/> PAGE MAKING <input checked="" type="radio"/> MACHINE PLATE <input type="radio"/> PRINTING <input type="radio"/> PAPER CUTTING <input type="radio"/> FOLDING <input type="radio"/> PROCESSING <input type="radio"/> DELIVERY	CONDITIONS FRONT COLOR NO. 4 MACHINE PLATE SIZE A2 BACK COLOR NO. 1 IMPOSITION NO. 4 EXPECTATION TIME 0 HOUR 30 MINUTES	45c_5 45c_3 45c_4 45c_6 45c_7
UNDER EDITION INDICATION POINT	<input type="radio"/> NON <input checked="" type="radio"/> FIRST <input type="radio"/> FINAL	
OK CANCEL		

45c_8

45c_9

45c_10

Fig. 14